

Message Text

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ACTION CU-05

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 IO-13 OIC-02 DHA-05 ACDA-07

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 JUSE-00

AF-10 ARA-10 EUR-12 NEA-10 /131 W

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FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4427

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 MANILA 13616

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OCON, SHUM

SUBJECT: WORLD PEACE THROUGH (MARTIAL) LAW CONFERENCE

REF: (A) MANILA 13430; (B) MANILA 13359; (C) MANILA 13187

(D) MANILA 13185; (E) MANILA 13510

1. SUMMARY. WORLD PEACE THROUGH LAW (WPTL) CONFERENCE HELD IN MANILA AUGUST 21-26 PROVIDED MARCOS REGIME OPPORTUNITY TO PRESENT, FOR DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN CONSUMPTION, JUSTIFICATION OF MARTIAL LAW AND DEFENSE OF PHILIPPINES' HUMAN RIGHTS RECORD. IN SPEECHES AND PANEL DISCUSSION THROUGH THE WEEK, GOP OFFICIALS PUT FORTH GOVERNMENT LINE, AFTER CONCLUSION OF CONFERENCE, WPTL CENTER PRESENTED PRESIDENT MARCOS WITH "NATION BUILDER AWARD," PRAISING HIM FOR INNOVATIVE, IMAGINATIVE AND CREATIVE GOVERNMENT. FOREIGN DELEGATES DISTURBED BY GOP USE OF CONFERENCE TO JUSTIFY MARTIAL LAW, ALTHOUGH FILIPINOS GIVEN IMPRESSION THAT WORLD LAW BODY WARMLY SUPPORTS MARCOS REGIME. END SUMMARY.

2. THE WEEK-LONG WPTL CONFERENCE CONSISTED OF NUMBER OF PANEL SESSIONS ON ISSUES INVOLVING INTERNATIONAL AND MUNICIPAL LAW. HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES DOMINATED CONFERENCE, WITH THREE SESSIONS DEALING DIRECTLY WITH TOPIC AND OTHERS
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DEALING WITH IT PERIPHERALLY. DURING SESSIONS A PROCLAMATION ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND 47 RESOLUTIONS WERE FORMULATED, 11 OF WHICH DEALT WITH HUMAN RIGHTS. RESOLUTIONS WERE PRESENTED BEFORE CLOSING PLENARY YASSION AND ACCEPTED UNANIMOUSLY.

3. BECAUSE OF PLANE ACCIDENT, RECORD OF FOREIGN DELEGATES TO CONFERENCE LOST. ESTIMATES RANGE FROM 500-1,000 (EMBASSY

FAVORS HIGHER FIGURE). PHILIPPINES DELEGATION, PACKED WITH GOVERNMENT LAWYERS AND JUDGES, NUMBERED ABOUT 3,000-4,000 MEMBERS, THOUGH AGAIN NO RECORDS AVAILABLE. GOP LEVIED VARIABLE EMPLOYEE ATTENDANCE QUOTA ON ITS SUBORDINATE AGENCIES WITH FEES, PER DIEM AND TRANSPORTATION PICKED UP BY GOVERNMENT. (DINNERS AND LUNCHEONS WERE ESPECIALLY WELL ATTENDED.) OFFICIALS ESTIMATE OF WPTL CENTER OF 6,900 DELEGATES PROBABLY INFLATED.

4. CONFERENCE CHARACTERIZED FROM START BY GOP PROPAGANDA BLITZ TO JUSTIFY MARTIAL LAW AND HUMAN RIGHTS RECORD. IN WORLD LAW DAY SPEECH BY SUPREME COURT CHIEF JUSTICE FRED CASTRO (REF D), IN PRESIDENT MARCOS' OPENING SPEECH AUGUST 22 (REF C), IN JUSTICE ENRIQUE FERNANDO'S PAPER ON HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE PHILIPPINES (REF E) AND IN FORSEC CARLOS ROMULO'S LUNCHEON SPEECH, "RIGHT TO LIFE," THE IDEA PUT FORWARD THAT MARTIAL LAW WAS NECESSARY AND LEGAL, THAT RIGHT TO ECONOMIC WELL-BEING TOOK PRIORITY OVER OTHER RIGHTS, THAT WESTERN IDEALS OF FREEDOM AND DEMOCRACY SHOULD NOT BE STRICTLY APPLIED TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, AND THAT HUMAN RIGHTS WERE RESPECTED AND GUARANTEED UNDER LAW IN THE PHILIPPINES. SAME IDEAS WERE PUT FORWARD IN MANY PANEL SESSIONS BY GOP SPOKESMEN.

5. MANY FOREIGN DELEGATES PARTICULARLY AMERICAN, REACTED WITH SURPRISE AND OUTRAGE AT THIS FLAGRANT USE OF CONFIDENTIAL

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ENCE FOR DOMESTIC POLITICAL ENDS. ALTHOUGH MANY DELEGATES IMPRESSED BY MARCOS' ANNOUNCEMENTS OF AUGUST 22 LIFTING CURFEW AND TRAVEL BAN, CALLING FOR LOCAL ELECTIONS AND RENEWING AMNESTY PROGRAM, AS WEEK CONTINUED FOREIGN DELEGATES BECAME DISILLUSIONED BY CONSTANT HAMMERING OF GOP POSITION. FINAL STRAW WAS GIFT, PLACED IN DELEGATES' HOTEL ROOMS, OF THREE BOOKS AUTHORED BY PRESIDENT MARCOS. THESE "GIDEON BIBLES" GENERALLY HAD OPPOSITE EFFECT THAN THAT INTENDED BY ALIENATING FOREIGN DELEGATES. U.S. SUPREME COURTE ASSOCIATE JUSTICE THURGOOD MARSHALL WAS AMONG THOSE OUTRAGED BY PROCEEDINGS, EFFECTIVELY BOYCOTTING CONFERENCE AFTER OPENING SESSION, EXCEPT FOR ADDRESS HE GAVE AT LUNCHEON (REF B). (JUSTICE MARSHALL ESTIMATED WPTL CENTER'S TRAVEL BILL FOR HIMSELF AND FILIPINE DESCENDANT WIFE AT \$6,000.) OPPOSITIONIST SENATOR SALONGA CONDUCTED COUNTER-CONFERENCE (REF A)

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AND SOME AMERICAN DELEGATES PARTICIPATED IN ANTI-CONFERENCE DEMONSTRATION WHICH RESULTED IN USE OF WATER HOSE BY POLICE TO DISBAND ASSEMBLY. SOME U.S. DELGATES ALSO ASSISTED IN DISSMININATION OF ANTI-GOVERNMENT MATERIALS DURING CONFERENCE. SKEPTICISM OF MARCOS REGIME ALSO EXPRESSED AMONG FILIPINO DELGATES, THOUGH LIMITED FOR MOST PART TO PRIVATE PRACTITIONERS, NOT GOP LAWYERS OR JUDGES. JUSTICE UNDERSECRETARY MACARAIG COMMENTED TO EMBOFF THAT EXCESSIVE PRESIDENTIAL PROTESTATIONS MIGHT ENGENDER UNWARRANTED SUSPICION.

7. DESPITE GOP EFFORTS TO USE CONFERENCE AS FORUM TO JUSTIFY MARTIAL LAW, CRITICISMS FROM FLOOR WERE PERMITTED AND REPORTED IN TELEVISION AND NEWSPAPERS. IN GENERAL, HOWEVER, DOMESTIC NEWS COVERAGE WAS HEAVILY SLANTED. ITEM RELATING TO GENERAL WORKING PAPER SUBMITTED BY MALTESE JUSTICE J.J. CREMONA WAS HEADLINED "LAW BODY HAILS FM ADMINISTRATION OF MARTIAL LAW." U.S. DELEGATE LEONARD HAIND'S REMARK THAT THE U.S. IS THE STRONGEST BACKER OF MERCENARIES WAS GIVEN FRONT PAGE TREATMENT BY EVENING POST. SAME ISSUED CARRIED HEADLINE "LAW BODY HITS OPINIONATED WESTERN PRESS." PAPERS GENERALLY GAVE IMPRESSION OF HEAVY WORLD-WIDE FRPPORT OF REGIME BASING CLAIMS ON WORKING PAPERS AND CASUAL REMARKS OF INDIVIDUALS,
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USUALLY FILIPINOS, WHICH MOST DELEGATES HAD NEITHER SEEN NOR HEARD AND CERTAINLY NOT APPROVED.

I. CAPSTONE OF CONFERENCE WAS WPTL CENTER PRESENTATION OF "NATION BUILDER AWARD" PRESENT TO PRESIDENT MARCOS

FOR "INNOVATIVE, IMAGINATIVE, CREATIVE GOVERNMENT TO MEET MODERN NEEDS." AS REPORTED IN TIMES JOURNAL, CITATION ACCOMPANYING THE AWARD RECEITES THAT IT IS PRESENTED BY REPS OF MORE THAN ONE MILLION LAWYERS AROUND THE WORLD IN RECOGNITION OF RULE OF LAW AND UNIQUE ADAPTATION OF MARCOS GOVERNMENT TO NEEDS OF PEOPLE (MISUNDERSTOOD BY MEDIA), WHICH IS "...DEMONSTRATED BY THE RESULTS WHICH ARE EVIDENT FOR ALL TO OBSERVE WITH YOUR COURTS GIVEN TO ALL YOUR PEOPLES TO DO JUSTICE AND THE NORMAL GOVERNMENT SERVICES RENDERED AND IN FACT EXPANDED." CITATION CONCLUDES, "WE ALSO ON BEHALF OF THE WORLD LEGAL COMMUNITY EXPRESS OUR PRIDE IN YOU AND WISH FOR YOU AND YOUR NATION CONTINUED SUCCESS AND PROSPERITY. WITH THESE THOUGHTS WE PRESENT TO YOU THIS UNPRECEDENTED NATIONAL BUILDER AWARD FOR YOUR PAST ACHIEVEMENTS WHICH WE ARE CERTAIN ARE BUT A PRELUDE TO CONTINUED ACCOMPLISHMENTS UNDER YOUR LEADERSHIP." AWARD CAME AS SURPRISE TO MOST, IF NOT ALL BUT A VERY FEW PARTICIPANTS, AND DOES NOT REPRESENT GENERAL VIEWS OF FOREIGN DELEGATES.

9. FOLLOWING PRESENTATION, ROMULO SPOKE BRIEFLY, CITING AWARD AS PROOF OF LEGITIMACY AND GENERAL INTERNATIONAL RESPECT FOR REGIME IN SPITE OF ISOLATED CRITICS. AWARD WAS APPARENTLY DRAFTED AND PRESENTED BY SECRETARIAT ONLY BUT PRESENTED AS THE FINAL ACT OF THE CONFERENCE. THE FOLLOWING DAY, DAILY EXPRESS COLUMNIST VALENCIA, IN MORE PARANOID MOOD THAN USUAL, HAILED AWARD AS VERDICT FOR THE DEFENSE

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DELIVERED BY THE JURY OF DELEGATES WHO PERSONALLY OBSERVED MARTIAL LAW. CLAIMING THE CITATION WAS APT AND PRECISE IN ITS DESCRIPTION OF PHILIPPINE-STYLE MARTIAL LAW, HE NOTES WITH UNACCUSTOMED ACCURACY THAT IT EXCEEDED WHAT EVEN THE "MOST RABID SYCOPHANT OF THE PRESIDENT HAD EVER MANAGED TO WEAVE." VALENCIA CONCLUDES WITH PREDICTION THAT THE DELEGATES WILL BE CRITICIZED BY WESTERN PRESS AND THAT "WORLD LAW CONFERENCE WILL BEAR A LABEL THE CONFERENCE WILL HAVE TO FIGHT BACK THE SAME WAY WE HAVE CARRIED OUR CROSS WHICH THE WESTERN PRESS PUT ON OUR SHOULDERS."

10. FINANCIAL AND ACCOUNTING PROBLEMS STILL PLAGUE WPTL CENTER AND GOP. AMBASSADOR MUTUC'S ACCOUNTING OF EXPENSES HAS BEEN CONTESTED BY WPTL REPS HERE. ESPECIALLY DISTURBING FOR CENTER WERE 100,000 PESOS (14,000 DOLLARS) ENTRY FOR MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSES. GOP ALSO PRESENTED WPTLC WITH THE BILL FOR STATE DINNER AUGUST 23 TENDERED BY MARCOS (MARCOS ANNOUNCED AT DINNER HE WAS PAYING FOR IT). TOTAL BILL FOR CONFERENCE ESTIMATED IN EXCESS

OF 400,000 DOLLARS.

11. COMMENT. MOST FOREIGN DELEGATES LEFT CONFERENCE
DISGUSTED BY HEAVY-NANDED EFFORTS OF GOP TO JUSTIFY ITS
MARTIAL LAW RECORD. DOMESTIC MEDIA COVERAGE, ON THE OTHER
HAND, CONVEYED IMPRESSION TO AVERAGE FILIPINO THAT
PRESTIGIOUS WORLD LEGAL BODY FULL APPROVED OF MARTIAL
LAW REGIME. ABOUT THE BEST THAT CAN BE SAID FOR THE
CONFERENCE IS THAT PRESIDENT MARCOS WENT ON PUBLIC PZQMRD
BEFORE AN INTERNATIONAL GATHERING TO PROCLAIM THAT
MARTIAL LAW IS TEMPORARY AND THAT HE IS INDEED COMMITTED
TO RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS. MARCOS WARNED, HOWWEVER, IN
ADDRESS GIVEN AT PC ANNIVERSARY ON EVE OF THE CLOSING OF THE
CONFERENCE, THAT REVERSION TO STRICTER MARTIAL LAW
MEASURES WOULD OCCUR IF NEED AROSE, REPRESENTING EFFORT
TO HEAD-OFF POSSIBLE RISE IN EXPECTATIONS, THAT COULD PROVE
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